

Appln No. 10/731,710
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend claims 1, 5, 21, 23, 24 and 34 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for forming an ultra hard layer, comprising:
providing a refractory metal enclosure having an inner peripheral surface;
disposing a metallic liner within said enclosure;
placing ultra hard material within said enclosure, wherein at least a portion of said metallic liner is sandwiched between said ultra hard material and said inner peripheral surface;
sintering to convert said ultra hard material to a solid ultra hard material layer, having a peripheral portion infiltrated by said metallic liner; and
removing a majority said peripheral portion.
2. (Original) The method as in claim 1, wherein said refractory metal enclosure is formed of at least one of Nb, Mo, Ta, and other members of the IVB, VB and VIB families of the periodic table.
3. (Original) The method as in claim 1, wherein said metallic liner is formed of at least one of Fe, Co, and Ni.
4. (Previously Presented) The method as in claim 1, wherein disposing comprises forming an annular surface with the metallic liner and disposing said annular surface adjacent to the inner peripheral surface.